

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 03149 080315 Z

14

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 M-03 A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NEA-10 SY-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 RSR-01

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P 070122 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3149

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN, PINS, APER

SUBJ: GUADALAJARA KIDNAP: SITREP: SUMMARY OF EVENTS, 2130

HOURS 6/ MAY TO 1630 HOURS LOCAL, 7/ MAY

6/ MAY - 2130 HOURS: ASSIST. SEC. KUBISCH CALLED CHARGE.

DISCUSSED GOM FAILURE TO OBTAIN GUARANTEE OF RELEASE OF CG
LEONHARDY AFTER FLIGHT TO CUBA; THIS IS POINT FOR REVIEW WITH
MEXICANS AFTER CASE IS RESOLVED.

7/ MAY - 0130 HOURS: AMBASSADOR MEYER ARRIVED AT EMBASSY AND
WAS BRIEFED ON BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF CASE.

0340 HOURS: AMBASSADOR MEYER SENT MESSAGE TO MR. MATTHEWS
IN GUADALAJARA STRESSING THAT MRS. LEONHARDY SHOULD NOT BECOME
INVOLVED IN ANY PAYMENT OF DELIVERY OF RANSOM. MESSAGE ALSO
PASSED TO GUADALAJARA DUTY OFFICER.

0715 HOURS: ASST. SEC. KUBISCH CALLED TO ASK ABOUT THE 30
PRISONERS IN CUBA AND ABOUT MORNING MEDIA REACTION. HE THEN
SPOKE WITH CHARGE DEAN.

0815 HOURS: AMB. MEYER WAS BRIEFED.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 03149 080315 Z

1045 HOURS: CHARGE DEAN SPOKE TO MOYA PALENCIA. HE REITERATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE STRONG GUARANTEES OF RELEASE IF ESCAPE FROM MEXICO WAS DEMANDED. HE ASKED IF GOM HAD REQUESTED THAT CUBA HOLD RELEASED PRISONERS FOR POSSIBLE FURTHER LEVERAGE; MOYA SAID " THIS WILL BE DONE TODAY."

1100 HOURS: FIRST HOURLY CONFERENCE TELCON: ASST. SEC. KUBISCH, AMB. MEYER, MINISTER DEAN, AND HARRY CARTER OF OP CENTER.

1115 HOURS: CHARGE SPOKE TO CONSUL DOBYNS WHO WILL HAVE THE GOVERNOR OF JALISCO HANDLE THE MILLION PESOS; HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT CG LEONHARDY IS WELL, AND THAT HE DEFINITELY SENT FOUR NOTES AS REPORTED IN OUR (TEL) 3096.

1200 HOURS: KIDNAPPERS PHONED MRS. LEONHARDY GIVING DIRECTIONS ON WHERE INSTRUCTIONS COULD BE FOUND.

1222 HOURS: AFTER CONSULTATION WITH OP CENTER TASK FORCE, EMBASSY CLEARED USIS DRIVER TO DEPART FOR THE MESSAGE DROP POINT IN UNMARKED CAR. APPROXIMATELY 20 MINUTES LATER MESSAGE PICKED UP. HIGHLIGHTS TELEXED TO WASHINGTON.

1315 HOURS: GUADALAJARA REPORTED CG DOBYNS TAKING MESSAGE ON DELIVERY OF MONEY TO GOVERNOR.

1330 HOURS: CHARGE SPOKE WITH UNDERSECRETARY OF INTERIOR, GUTIERREZ BARRIOS, TO COMMUNICATE ABOVE. CHARGE STRESSED THAT USG COULD NOT BE PARTY TO ACTUAL DELIVERY OF RANSOM; GUTIERREZ ACCEPTED THIS POINT.

1358 HOURS: CG DOBYNS REPORTED THAT THE GOVERNOR HAD PACKAGED THE MONEY AS PER INSTRUCTIONS. HE DISPATCHED IT WITH A TRUSTED ASSISTANT WHO WAS NOT AN OBVIOUS POLICEMAN.

1500 HOURS: PRESS GUIDANCE WAS DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTER AND WASHINGTON. IT WAS DECIDED THAT CG LEONHARDY WOULD TAKE A SPECIAL FLIGHT TO MEXICO CITY AND WOULD STAY AT THE AMBASSADOR' S RESIDENCE. AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, AMBASSADOR MEYER, CHARGE DEAN AND CG LEONHARDY WILL CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER EMILIO RABASA. AMBASSADOR MEYER WISHES TO CALL WHATEVER OUTCOME.
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PAGE 03 MEXICO 03149 080315 Z

1505 HOURS: INT. MIN. MOYA IALENCIA CALLED THE CHARGE TO INFORM HIM THAT THE TRANSFER OF THE MONEY HAD TAKEN PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT; EXACT TIMING NOT FIXED. (BY CONTRAST, THE GOVERNOR' S VERSION EMPHASIZED THAT HIS MAN HAD BEEN LED AROUND THE CITY; THAT THE TRANSFER WAS MORE " DANGEROUS," (I. E., SOPHISTICATED) THAN ANTICIPATED. OP CENTER INFORMED

BY TELEPHONE.

1512 HOURS: MR. MATTHEWS CALLED WITH DETAILS ON THE DROP.

1530 HOURS: MULTIPLE RUMORS OF THE RELEASE OF CG LEONHARD
ON PERIFERICO OF GUADALAJARA.

1635 HOURS: ASST. INT. MIN. GUTIERREZ BARRIOS QUASHED THESE
RUMORS. CHARGE DEAN RELAYED PROPOSED POST- RELEASE SEQUENCE AS
CLEARED WITH OP CENTER. GUTIERREZ CONCURRED ON TIMING AND
APPROACH.

COMMENT: THROUGHOUT TODAY'S ACTIVITIES, FOLLOWING POINTS HAVE
BEEN REITERATED FORCEFULLY TO GOM AND TO OUR PERSONNEL IN
GUADALAJARA:

1) NO ONE CONNECTED WITH THE CONSULATE GENERAL IS TO SERVE
AS A PIPELINE FOR THE RANSOM MONEY. THIS IS US POLICY.

2) MRS. LEONHARDY'S SAFETY IS AT RISK AS MUCH AS IS THAT OF
HER HUSBAND.

3) GUARANTEES OF THE RELEASE OF CG LEONHARDY MUST BE
PART OF ANY ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING THE DEPARTURE OF THE
KIDNAPPERS FROM MEXICO.
DEAN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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